

Message Text

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DEPTO 21

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (ROBINSON, CHARLES W.), ANZUS, AS

SUBJECT: DEPSEC ROBINSON'S CONVERSATIONS WITH NEW ZEALAND
OFFICIALS

1. THIS TELEGRAM CONTAINS BRIEF OVERVIEW OF PEOPLE SEEN AND
SUBJECTS DISCUSSED DURING DEPSEC'S OFFICIAL MEETINGS IN
WELLINGTON, AUGUST 2. MORE COMPLETE MEMCONS WILL FOLLOW LATER.

2. NEW ZEALAND ACCORDED WARM AND HOSPITABLE WELCOME AND
SHOWED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN U.S. VIEWS. MOST CONVERSA-
TIONS WERE HEAVY ON SIDE OF QUESTIONS TO DEPSEC, AND LIGHT
ON NEW ZEALAND VIEWS OR REQUESTS. PRINCIPAL MEETING WAS WITH
PM MULDOON AND HIS FULL CABINET, LASTING NEARLY ONE HOUR,
FOLLOWED BY PM'S LUNCHEON WITH SELECTED MINISTERS.
SEPARATE SESSIONS WERE HELD WITH FM SECRETARY CORNER, DEP
PM/FM TALBOYS, DEFMIN MCCREADY AND OPPOSITION LEADER
ROWLING. DEPSEC ALSO HELD THIRTY MINUTE PRESS CONFERENCE,
BEING REPORTED SEPTEL. DEPSEC EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE USG
PLACES ON RELATIONS WITH NZ AND WITH ANZUS.

3. WORLD ECONOMIC CONDITIONS. SECRETARY CORNER AND
CABINET WERE INTENSELY INTERESTED IN BROAD ECONOMIC TRENDS
NOW EMERGING, INCLUDING NORTH/SOUTH ISSUES, AND FUTURE
FORECASTS. DEPSEC GAVE USG VIEWS BEGINNING WITH BROAD
PHILOSOPHICAL CONSIDERATIONS BUT ALSO INCLUDING ANSWERS TO
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MORE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS.

4. SOVIET AND PRC ACTIVITIES. THERE WAS RELATIVELY LITTLE EXPOSITION OF NEW ZEALAND VIEWS BUT MANY QUESTIONS ON U.S. PERCEPTIONS. IF ANY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN TWO SIDES EXISTED, THEY WERE NOT DISCERNIBLE IN CONVERSATIONS. DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN CHINA, AND SPECULATION ABOUT EVENTS AFTER DEATH OF MAO WERE ALSO SUBJECT TO LENGTHY DISCUSSION.

5. NPW. DEPSEC DEALT AT SOME LENGTH WITH NEED FOR NPW ACCESS TO NEW ZEALAND PORTS WHICH IMPORTANT IF USG IS TO DISCHARGE RESPONSIBILITY UNDER ANZUS PACT. HE GAVE DETAILED PRESENTATION ON SAFETY RECORD, NUMBER OF OTHER COUNTRIES AND PORTS THAT HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN VISITS FOR 22 YEARS AND URGED PROMPT RESOLUTION OF FINAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR FIRST NPW VISIT. CABINET OFFICIALS URGED DEPSEC TO MAKE SAME POINTS IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE, WHICH HE DID. INTERESTINGLY, THERE WERE NO NEW ZEALAND REQUESTS FOR EITHER INFORMATION OR FURTHER U.S. ASSURANCES AND PRESS REPORT OF SPECIAL ASSURANCES GIVEN TO CANADA WAS NOT RAISED EITHER BY OFFICIALS OR IN PRESS CONFERENCE.

6. LOS. NEW ZEALAND SIDE SHOWED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN PROBLEMS RELATING TO LOS, CHIEFLY ON 200 MILE ECONOMIC ZONE. DEPSEC GAVE U.S. VIEWS AS WELL AS PROGNOSIS ON UPCOMING LOS SESSION.

7. OTHER ISSUES RAISED INCLUDED.

A. POSSIBILITY OF CARTELS FOR PRIMARY PRODUCTS OTHER THAN OIL,

B. U.S.-SOVIET TRADE AND USSR NEED FOR GRAIN,

C. NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY AND PROBLEMS OF SAFEGUARDS AND RE-PROCESSING.

8. NEW ZEALAND BEEF. NEW ZEALAND SIDE CONFINED ITSELF TO ASKING ABOUT FUTURE OF AMERICAN MARKET AND IMPORT RESTRICTIONS. THERE WAS NO REQUEST FOR RAISING PRESENT QUOTAS.

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9. FONMIN TALBOYS INITIATED DETAILED DISCUSSIONS OF VIET-NAM AS WELL AS DEVELOPMENTS IN CHINA. HE, AND OTHERS, SHOWED SOME CONCERN ABOUT SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN SW PACIFIC BUT SEEMED TO FEEL THEY WERE MANAGEABLE. RECENT SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM MEETING IN NAIU HAD GIVEN PRIMIN MULDOO, OPPORTUNITY FOR GETTING ASSURANCES PARTICULARLY FROM TONGA AND WESTERN SAMOA THAT THOSE COUNTRIES WOULD NOT MAKE ANY

ARRANGEMENTS WITH SOVIETS WITHOUT PRIOR DISCUSSIONS WITH NEW ZEALAND. (SEE WELLINGTON SEPTELS.) THERE WAS NO NEW ZEALAND REQUEST FOR U.S. AID INPUTS TO SUPPLEMENT SLENDER NEW ZEALAND RESOURCES. FYI IN LATTER INFORMAL TALK ABOARD PLANE, FONMIN AND SECY CORNER SUGGESTED U.S. COOPERATION IN UPGRADING INTER-ISLAND SHIPPING FACILITIES IN SOWESTPAC-- A LONGSTANDING NEED THAT IS WORTH SERIOUS CONSIDERATION.

10. COMMENT, NEW ZEALANDERS WERE CLEARLY GRATIFIED THAT DEPSEC HAD BEEN ABLE TO VISIT, AND APPEARED COMPLETELY SATISFIED WITH EXTENT AND CONTENT OF BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS. ABSENCE OF SPECIFIC REQUEST TO USG CAN BE INTERPRETED AS EVIDENCE THAT EMBASSY DISCUSSIONS HAD ALREADY LAID GROUND WORK FOR THESE DISCUSSIONS WHICH NEW ZEALAND DID NOT NEED TO PRESS FURTHER. EX-PRIME MINISTER ROWLING REFRAINED FROM RAISING SUBJECT TO NPW VISITS, DESPITE HIS KNOWN STRONG OPPOSITION. DEPSEC AND OTHERS WILL HAVE FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH THOSE NEW ZEALAND OFFICIALS WHO ARE TRAVELING ALONG WITH DEPSEC TO ANZUS MEETING.
ROBINSON

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